

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR TRIBUNE LIBRARY FILES

(Tribune people themselves are newsworthy. In order to bring Library files up to date and to have a background of reliable and accurate information this form is being circulated. Fullest details will be appreciated. Use both sides of form if needed.)

2-1-52
NAME: Robert B. Stinnett ADDRESS: 1766 Woodhaven Way, Oakland 11

FAMILY (Parents' names, brothers, sisters, husband, wife, children):

parents: Mr. and Mrs. Curtis R. Stinnett of 1641 Grand Avenue Piedmont.

brothers: Richard and Charles Stinnett

sister: Nancy Stinnett

wife: Marguerite (Peggy) Stinnett. Children are: James and Colleen.

BIRTHPLACE : DATE: Born Oakland, California, March 31, 1924.

TRIBUNE: (Present position, others held here, when came to paper, awards and honors won, etc.) Photographer on Oakland Tribune. First did photography for tribune in high school in 1940, 1941 1942. Worked for Tribune on Free Lance basis from 1948 to 1950. In 1950 became a full staff photographer. Award from National Press Photographers Association in "spot news class"---it was just a citation.

NEWSPAPER SERVICE ELSEWHERE:

None

PUBLISHED WORKS: (Books, Magazine articles)

none

AFFILIATIONS: (Church, lodge, union, etc.)

Oakland Tribune Editorial Employees Assn.

California Historical Society, Press & Union League Club, Friends of Bancroft Library at U. C. National Press Photographers Assn.

San Francisco-Oakland Press Photographer's Assn.

PUBLIC SERVICE: (Civil Defense, Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross, etc.)

none

MILITARY SERVICE: United States Navy from Dec 1942 to January 1946.

Aboard USS San Jacinto aircraft carrier as Photographer's

Mate First Class. With Third and Fifth Fleet, Task Force 58 in

EDUCATION: South Pacific.

Grad Fremont High School June 1942.

OTHER DATA OF INTEREST:

none

Because Tribune employees frequently make the news themselves, this form will be used to provide us with up-to-date and accurate information for all such occasions. Please complete in detail, type or print, and return to the Editorial Business Director's office.

Date July 28, 1975

Robert B. Stinnett

FULL NAME:

522 Kenmore Avenue Oakland Calif 94610

ADDRESS:

BIRTHPLACE AND DATE: Oakland, California (Fabiola Hospt) March 31, 1924

DATE - LOCATION OF WEDDING: March 14, 1953 San Francisco (St Marys Cath Chr)

SPOUSE'S NAME: Marguerite C. (Peggy) Stinnett

CHILDREN - NAMES AND BIRTHDATES: James C. Stinnett March 30, 1952
Colleen Badagliacco April 25, 1945

OTHER FAMILY (Names and addresses of parents, brothers, sisters, etc.):

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Stinnett, Napa, California

Brother: Charles Stinnett, Napa, Calif Grandson: Robert Badagliacco of San Jose, Calif
" Richard Stinnett Napa, Calif

Sister Nancy Stinnett Napa, Calif

TRIBUNE SERVICE (Date of employment, present position, others held here, awards and honors won, etc.): (free lance)

Started taking pictures for Oakland Tribune while a student at Fremont High School in 1940. Became full time on Tribune in 1948 to August 1957. Left to work at Branden Enterprises. Returned to Tribune in October 1965. (Worked at SF Examiner 5 mos in 1965)

PRE-TRIBUNE CAREER HISTORY (Similar information as above):

EDUCATION (Schools and colleges attended, graduation dates):

Fremont High School Grad of June 1942
classes at Uni of Calif Extension

MILITARY SERVICE (Branch, dates, theater, medals, etc.):

US Navy Photographer from Dec 1942 to January 1946. Served on USS San Jacinto a light carrier. Pacific Ocean areas. Pres Unit Citation from FDR. Philippine Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon Atlantic Ribbon

PUBLISHED WORKS (Books, magazine articles, etc.):

Life, Time, Newsweek, NY Times, London Times, Look, Cosmopolitan

AFFILIATIONS (Church, lodge, clubs, union, etc.):

San Francisco Bay Area Press Photographers California Historical Society

California Press Photographers Nor-Cal Nevada Winter Sports

National Press Photographers Assn Writers Association

SF News Guild (served as RA 1967) US Ski Writers Association

PUBLIC SERVICE (Teaching, civic groups, political activities, etc.):

Chairman, Assessment Standards Committee, 1966 Alameda County Grand Jury

Member, Montclair-Greater Oakland Democratic Committee

Editor, The Grab Shot (Official Publ of SF Press Photographers) 1975

PERSONAL DATA (Avocations, hobbies, spouse's career history, other areas of residence, etc.):

Berkeley's Five-Legged Frog To Enter Calaveras Jumps

By ROBERT STINNETT

BERKELEY, April 28. — "He ketched a frog one day, and took him home, and he called it to educate him; and so he never done nothing for three months but set in his back yard and learn that frog to jump." — The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County by Mark Twain.

About three months ago, almost to this very day, Dr. Robert Cornish, of 1923 Dwight Way, was presented with a frog by friends who live on a ranch near Modesto.

Now the acquisition of a frog is not of special news value to any newspaper, unless, of course, it happens to be a five-legged frog.

Such is the coincidence that Dr. Cornish's frog IS a five-legged frog!

EXPERT ON FROGS

And by that same coincidence, Dr. Cornish is an expert on frogs, and immediately recognized the potentialities of such a frog if it could be entered in the annual Jumping Frog Jubilee at Angels Camp to be held this year in the Calaveras County town on May 14, 15 and 16.

So with this in mind, the good doctor immediately contacted his lodge—the Berkeley Lodge of Elks, which took to the idea as fast as a frog will take to water. They gave him the hop-to-it-signal. President Dave Oliver of the Elks hit on the thought of selling sponsor tickets to cover training costs of Miss Green Hope—that's the moniker of the frog—with the funds collected in excess of training and entry fees (plus, it is hoped, the \$1000 first prize) to be divided equally between the Schoonover Home for underprivileged children and the Berkeley High School Football Shoe Fund.

The sponsor tickets, needless to

say, are going like jumping. Any and every afternoon (provided you've purchased a 50-cent ticket which is good for the "season") you can go down to Dr. Cornish's laboratory at 743 Dwight Way and watch the training exercises being conducted in the back yard.

LEARNING TO JUMP

And don't kid yourself—Miss Green Hope is learning to jump! As proof, Dr. Cornish cites her record for the past week which has shown an increase of eight inches over the previous day's jump. Bearing in mind the amphibian's sensational 34-inch jump of yesterday, and assuming she will continue to out-jump herself by eight inches per day, the Berkeley Elks expect to cop that top \$1000 prize with at least a 14-foot hop come this May 16.

Berkeley's Mayor, Laurence L. Cross, an interested spectator at the training exercises, had this to say concerning Miss Green Hope's new record: "She's a whopper of a hopper."

Texas Ready to Aid U.S. in Next War, Says Skipper of Carrier

Texas has informed the United States, through the crew of the battle-tested aircraft carrier San Jacinto, that the Lone Star State now will be glad to fly her flag "in any area where Texas' help may be required."

The cocky and belligerent message was flashed ashore as the San Jacinto came into San Francisco Bay this week-end.

The crew of the ship, which includes at least one man from Oklahoma, a few from Kansas, Iowa and Oklahoma—not to mention some from Texas, sent the message after steaming in direct from Tokyo Bay.

SCORE IS RELATED

Capt. Hugh H. Goodwin immediately notified Gov. Coke Stevenson of Texas, that the San Jacinto, named for one of the Lone Star State's early independence fights, had scored in this fashion:

One hundred forty-eight Jap planes knocked down, one carrier sunk, four destroyers smashed under the waves, two destroyer escorts wrecked, bombs and torpedoes dropped on two Jap battleships, five

carriers, four cruisers, and "numerous" merchantmen and transports."

Then, continued the message from the San Jacinto, the ship is willing after 16 months of destruction (for the enemy) to continue its fight against "the enemies of the State of Texas and its great ally, the United States."

CALIFORNIANS SCOFF

Californians scoffed at the attitude of the Texans aboard the San Jacinto, pointing out that while she had fought her way north from Leyte, in the Philippines, she actually never suffered any damage—other than water splashes from bombs.

Among the local men who refused to accept the Texas bragging was Robert Stinnett, 21, of 5719 College Avenue, a graduate of Fremont High School, who photographed most of the ship's actions during the past 518 days.

He agreed that the "San Jack" was a hard-hitting ship, but he refused to give any more credit to Texas for her success, than he would to any other State.

Narcotics, Camera Loot of Burglar

A quantity of narcotics, valued at about \$50, and a \$200 camera were taken by a burglar who broke into a drug store and a photographer's studio at 3301 Grand Avenue.

Stillman Robinson, 1524 Central Avenue, Alameda, said he found a rear door jimmied open when he went to open the store yesterday morning. The lock had been broken off the narcotics drawer.

The camera, and a pair of sun glasses were taken from the studio of Robert Stinnett.

OUT OF THE NAVY

S 1c A. R. Graham, 5585 Park Boulevard; S 2c Edward E. Botelho, 1078 72nd Avenue; AMM 3c Herman J. Kasper, 1799 Castro Street; S 2c William H. Hutchison, 400 Ninth Street; S 1c Floyd A. Sykes, 1116 36th Avenue; S 1c Harold Clawson, 639 46th Avenue; AM 2c Norman Garden, 6107 Hayer Street; AOM 3c Gustave H. Porschke, 2408 Shattuck Avenue; AMM 2c Aubrey D. Pellaton,

1059 18th Street; AETM 1c Robert Gordon Matthias; AMM 1c Frank C. Negherbon, 2401 Havenscourt Boulevard; MoMM 3c Mark J. Poole, 377 Alcatraz Avenue; Cox. Nat Clotil, 827 Athens Avenue; PHM 1c Chester D. Guthrie, 428 East Nineteenth Street; SM 2c Claude V. Clevenger, 6146 MacArthur Boulevard; S 1c Alexander Smith, 772 Sixth Street; PHM 1c Robert B. Stinnett, 1641 Grand Avenue; SF 3c Ben T. Evans, 703 33rd Avenue; EM 1c J. L. Kelley, 1722 Grove Street; Cox. George Mellin, 6901 Bancroft Avenue; PHM 2c Theodore S. McNeal, 2115 21st Avenue; S 1c Alfred R. Rodrigues, 7114 Weld Street; HA 1c Charles C. Trumbell, 2030 Ninth Avenue; and Cox. Robert L. Roberts, 3893 Lyman Road.

Recalls Details of Historic Service

TRIB D APR 3 - 1949

By ROBERT STINNETT

On April 3, 1860, a pony with two U.S. flags flying from the saddle galloped down San Francisco's flag bedecked Market Street and clomped on board a waiting river steamer. The captain gave three blasts of the steamer's whistle and the famous Pony Express was off and running—up the Sacramento River!

This wham bang start of the Pony Express only happened once. The regular express journey began at Sacramento, but a press agent (they had 'em in those days, too) thought a pony riding a river steamer would afford a more auspicious beginning of one of the most fabulous episodes of the West.

These details of the Pony Express were recalled today—89 years after the founding—by the grandson of one of the owners. He is Dr. Ergo A. Majors, of 45 Sierra Avenue, Piedmont, whose grandfather Alexander Majors formed the Pony Express Company along with William H. Russell and William B. Waddell.

IDEA SUGGESTED

The idea for the fast mail service was first suggested to the founders by Senator William M. Gwin of California who was incensed that it took almost a month for mail to go coast to coast. The senator jokingly told the Senate that his term could expire while he was making the stage coach journey to Washington.

The actual route of the Pony Express was from Sacramento to St. Joseph, Missouri—a distance of 1996 miles. It took 80 experienced riders using 500 horses stopping at 190 stations to make the journey.

The nearly 2000 miles had to be made in eight days. There was no idling for rider or horse. Horse and human endurance were strained to the limit of physical tension.

Letters carried by the express were written on the thinnest of paper. They were wrapped in oiled silk to preserve it from dampness—many times the horse and rider had to swim a raging river. The cost for a letter weighing half an ounce was five dollars.

TOO EXPENSIVE

Majors reports that at this price, there were few "love missiles" in the mail pouch.

The speed of the express was described by Mark Twain in "Roughing It": "So sudden is it all and so like a flash of unreal fancy, that but for the flake of white foam left quivering and perishing on the mailsack after the vision had flashed by and disappeared, we might have doubted whether we had seen any actual horse and man at all."

While the San Francisco start left little to be desired in the way of color, the people of St. Joseph added their own bit by plucking the hair from the tail of the west-bound pony. The hairs made fine souvenirs.

souvenir.

When the west-bound rider arrived in San Francisco on April 14, 1860, the city went wild. A plaque erected by the Native Sons of the Golden West at the southwest corner of Montgomery and Merchant Streets tells this story:

"The first Pony Express rider to reach San Francisco on the final relay, carrying mail from St. Joseph, Missouri, to California, arrived in this city April 14, 1860, aboard the river steamer 'Antelope,' led by a band and several engine companies. A concourse of citizens escorted the rider, mounted on his gayly decorated pony, to the office of the Alta California Telegraph Company, headquarters of the Pony Express, which stood on this spot. The Pony Express was in operation from April 3, 1860, to October 26, 1861."

RIDER'S GARB

A description of the Pony Express rider is given in the Grass Valley National of October 30, 1861: "Each rider is provided with a complete buckskin suit of clothes with the hair on the outside of the garment. This is so that in the event of a storm the rain or snow will not penetrate the clothes making them heavy and thus retard the speed of the pony.

"Four eight-inch six-shooting Colts are so arranged as to be half cocked with the impression on the hammers so they are ready for instant use. There is also an 18-inch knife with a tube of mercury at the back of the blade. This is so that when used the mercury rushes to the point of the blade and deals a deadly blow."

The east-west record for the Pony Express was set when the news of Lincoln's election was carried from St. Joseph to San Francisco in seven days and 17 hours.

William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was probably the most famous of the "pony boys." His experiences in fighting off tribes of Indians as well as wild animals and highway-men became known the world over.

The Pony Express ceased operation on October 26, 1861, when the coast-to-coast telegraph line was completed. The venture cost the founders \$700,000. They collected \$500,000 in revenues during the span of the express—leaving a net loss of \$200,000. Possibly it might have made money had not the telegraph come along.

Famous Stagecoach Bandit 'Lost' After Prison Discharge

By ROBERT STINNETT

Anybody here seen Black Bart? Wells Fargo Bank and Union Trust Company, in the person of Vice-president George W. Wickland, is offering a "reward" for information leading to the whereabouts of Black Bart, alias Charles E. Bolton and C. E. Boles. The charge: Robbing Wells Fargo treasure boxes, stage coaches and generally making a fool of Wells, Fargo & Company.

If it seems that you've read part of the above before—you have—for Black Bart was the most famous of California stage coach robbers. For seven years from 1875 to 1883 he robbed 27 Wells, Fargo & Company treasure boxes.

After pillaging the treasure box he sometimes left a poem in the abyss where gold and silver had been. He signed his poems: "Black Bart, The PO8." A newspaper of the day suggested his poetry was adding (to Wells, Fargo & Co.) "insult to injury."

Wickland is well aware that Black Bart was finally captured and committed to San Quentin. He knows that Bart gave his actual name as Charles E. Bolton—a 50-year-old mining man.

But what Mr. Wickland doesn't know is where Bart (or Bolton) went after being released from San Quentin in 1888. He disappeared.

A charge that the company paid Black Bart never to rob Wells Fargo again is heatedly denied by Wickland, who supervises the Wells Fargo historical museum at Montgomery and Market Streets in San Francisco.

"The chances are that Bart is now dead for he would be about 116 years old," Wickland said this morning. "However, there may be persons now alive who know what eventually became of him."

It is to this latter group that the "reward" is offered. All evidence will be carefully checked and anyone that definitely proves beyond a question of doubt what happened to Black Bart will be paid the "reward."

The last known relative of Bart was living in Alexandria, Louisiana in 1939. He himself lived in Decatur, Illinois prior to coming to California. A check by the Decatur Herald Review failed to turn up any relatives in that city.

Wells, Fargo & Company offers this description: "Black Bart also known as Charles E. Bolton and Charles E. Boles. Age in 1883 50 years. Height 5 feet 8 inches. Blue eyes. Gray hair. Wore mustache and Imperial beard. Does not use tobacco, intoxicating liquor or opium in any form."

CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL TOOK MANY YEARS TO 'SETTLE DOWN'

TRIB D MAY - 1 1949

By ROBERT STINNETT

California's 49ers had the darndest time getting their state capital off the "rolling wheel" status and "set down in a commodious looking spot."

The plight of the state's founders with their peripatetic capital is being brought to the attention of present state legislators by the citizens of Benicia and Solano County. A bill has been introduced by Senator Luther E. Gibson of Solano County that would make the only still standing "peripatetic" capital a state historical monument. This building is in Benicia, located at First and G Streets.

As an example of the lawmakers' problems, Benicians cite one instance in the fall of 1852 when legislators thought they were permanently settled but found that their "commodious looking spot" was located below Benica's leading saloon.

DODGING BULLETS

It was a rare day when a senator wasn't dodging six-shooter slugs—not from a fellow constituent but from a miner's brawl in the capital's "upstairs saloon."

The senators didn't think a chamber below a drinkery was a "commodious spot," and in a huff decided to move from Benicia—they didn't exactly know where, but would move anyway. After all, moving meant nothing to them. In only two years of statehood, the capital had been moved five times.

The citizens of Benicia, anxious

to keep the seat of state in their environs, offered their newly completed City Hall for the State Capital. The legislators, still without a proper home, readily accepted. Their first session in Benicia's City Hall was called to order in February, 1853.

The Legislature remained in session there until April, 1854, when Sacramento by one vote finally won the fight for the "permanent" state capital.

AFTER MUCH TRAVAIL

Two fires, a flood, and 15 years later the legislators finally won their commodious looking spot. They occupied (though still unfinished) the present state building in Sacramento late in the fall of 1869.

Thus ended a 20-year career of the mobile capitol. It began in San Jose on December 15, 1849, when the first Legislature convened—nine months before the U.S. Congress passed the act admitting California to the Union.

Approximately a year later, on February 14, 1851, the capital was in Vallejo at the invitation of General Vallejo who promised to erect a capitol building that would reflect the dignity of the state and its legislators.

The lawmakers found very little dignity in Vallejo's ramshackle capitol and moved to Sacramento on January 12, 1852. A devastating flood in the latter place caused them

to adjourn on May 4 to meet again in Vallejo on December 3, 1852.

They stayed only long enough to adjourn and "carry" their business to Benicia where, to their horror, found a saloon above the chambers.

It was to Benicia's City Hall on February 4, 1853—then to the County Court House at Sacramento in April, 1854. It burned shortly thereafter but was reconstructed by November, 1854, and the Legislature again convened.

In the fall of 1860 construction was started on the first permanent capital building. The foundations were washed away by a flood on January 10, 1861.

New foundations were started on higher ground on May 15, 1861. The present capital building was finally completed in 1874 at an estimated cost of \$3,400,000.

The legislators finally found their "commodious looking spot."

hieroglyphic TRIB D OCT 9 '1949 Legend False

By ROBERT STINNETT

The citizens of Mono County and especially Bishop, are not going to like this.

But for many, many years they have been reciting elaborate tales about Indian hieroglyphics found about 17 miles north of Bishop in Owens Valley. It is claimed that these Indian writings and drawings are the work of a lost race and people.

Not so, say University of California archaeologists following a recently completed survey. This study by the U.C. scientists took in hundreds of petroglyphs and pictographs that are found in the Owens Valley hieroglyphic group.

For scores of years, Bishopites, through their Chamber of Commerce, newspaper and magazine articles, have been telling about the lost race of people whose history was purportedly written on the rocks and cliff of Mono and Inyo Counties.

TREASURE SECRETS

There were even hints that the scrambles of lines and circles gave clues to lost gold mines and secret treasure.

Tourists flocked to the old Paiute Indian Reservation. Some even asked the Indians if they could translate the petroglyphs.

The Paiutes always replied they didn't know their meaning.

"Them here heap long times," was the answer. The Indians were no fools. They were getting fat guide fees to show off the writings. Why kill off a good legend?

Armchair archaeologists studied the writings.

"Yes," many said, "these are the work of a lost race. These petroglyphs can't be transcribed to modern day language unless we find the key."

A flat stone with a galaxy of figures was picked out as a "Rosetta Stone."

"This stone is the key to the hieroglyphics," said a national magazine. "Solve these figures and you have the alphabet of this group of Indian writings."

This summer the University of California Archaeological Survey did just that.

DIRECTED SURVEY

Franklin Fenenga, of 2140 Carlton Street, Berkeley, archaeologist for the survey directed a group working in the Owens Valley and nearby Kings River Canyon.

Their report covering the study pooh poohs the "lost race people" idea.

The petroglyphs are genuine all right. They may be as old as 1000 years. Maybe more. But they say nothing.

"Those petroglyphs and pictographs were used as giant magical backdrops where young Indian girls held their coming out parties in ceremonies before the entire tribe," said Fenenga this morning.

"And festive occasions they were," continued Fenenga. "Nothing like the drab cotillions of today. Those Indian debuts featured the entombing for three days of the debs in pits with heated stones."



No, this is not a secret ancient map to "heap big gold mine," say University of California scientists after studying Indian drawings about 17 miles north of Bishop in Owens Valley. The Berkeley archeologists found that marks have no meaning, but are merely "magical" signs used as backdrop to old-time "coming out" parties.



Owens Valley version of the "Rosetta Stone," formerly thought to be the key to Indian "writings," is really just the work of some imaginative witch doctor, according to U.C. scientists. Indians attributed markings to "Coyote," their god of magic, expressing anger.

—Photos courtesy Oakland Public Library.

On the fourth day of their presentation to "society" the maids had their faces painted black. The Cotillions lasted four months. During this time the girls facial makeup was enhanced at intervals with white vertical and horizontal lines.

DONE BY 'COYOTE'

The Indians, however, believed the drawings were done by "Coyote" who was their god of magic. The archaeological survey receives numerous requests for the deciphering of thousands of hieroglyphics found in California.

"Our answer," says Professor Robert Heizer of 403 Coventry Road, Berkeley, head of the Archaeological Survey, "is that the designs not pertaining to the coming out party are actually the work of the tribe's witch doctor."

It was their belief that the rock taunted them into the waters by acting cute.

To dissuade "water baby" required spitting tobacco juice on the rock.

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"Our answer," says Professor Robert Heizer of 403 Coventry Road, Berkeley, head of the Archaeological Survey and professor of anthropology at U.C., "is that none of them can be read. They are simply the signs of the witch doctor who told his tribe that "Coyote" was angered at something they had done and the writings were his messages of displeasure."

Among the Owens Valley writings is a mushroom-shaped rock called "Water Baby Rock" by the Indians. This mound is found adjoining the Owens River not far from U.S. Highway 395.

According to Fenenga, the Indians believed the rock was responsible for drownings in the

river. It was their belief that they taunted them into the water acting cute.

To dissuade "water baby" required spitting tobacco juice on the rock.

FIRE SWEEPS ESTUAR BIG INDUSTRIAL AREA

TRIB D JUN 23 1950

Adjoining Mill Lumber Yard Escape;
Warrant Out for Attacker of Cameraman

A three-alarm fire, fed by explosions and whipped by a brisk wind, destroyed a large building used by two firms at the foot of 46th Avenue late yesterday and, for a time, threatened the adjoining area along the estuary.

Firemen fought the blaze for more than 5 hours and managed to save a mill and lumber company, which was separated from the burning warehouse by only 12 feet.

If it had caught fire, the entire area might have been doomed, fire officials said.

The flames, of undetermined origin, completely destroyed the equipment of the Gray Body Manufacturing Company and the Pacific Automatic Sprinkler Company.

Damage was set at \$75,000 by Fire Chief James H. Burke.

Six trucks were driven to safety from the body manufacturing company by firemen and by W. K. Vietsch, 50, a ship's engineer.

for three old vessels, the Oregon, Svea and Idaho, tied up at the edge of the estuary some 200 yards from the shop.

Five other trucks, which had their tires off and could not be driven, went up in the flames.

The first alarm came in at 5:48 p.m. from a nearby box and when firemen arrived flames already were billowing from the center of the building near the Tide-water Street front.

An old warehouse, approximately 200 feet by 400 feet, much of the building is open and the wind whistling through drove the flames out of control almost immediately, according to Battalion Chief S. F. O'Day.

Although one of the companies occupying the building manufactures automatic sprinklers, their own sprinkling system was disconnected because the one-inch water main supplying the building was inadequate for its use, O'Day said.

Two high pressure hoses were kept on the side of the building

adjoining the Eastshore Lumber and Mill Company as firemen fought desperately to keep the flames from leaping a few feet into piles of boxes and stocks of light lumber.

The firemen were further hampered by a series of explosions in the paint shop, which threw up mushroom-shaped clouds 50 feet into the air. The blasts, which were first believed to be paint, were caused by the explosion of acetylene tanks, according to the battalion chief.

During the height of the fire, electric company linemen were called in to disconnect four high voltage lines which threatened to topple on the fire fighters.

Nine pieces of equipment and 50 men were called out, but despite the stubbornness of the fire and the danger, only one fireman suffered an injury, Lieut. William Taylor, who sprained an ankle.

One of the onlookers, Carl Nilson, 43, of 1109 Glendora Avenue, was arrested after he grabbed a camera from a Tribune photographer in an effort to prevent him from taking pictures.

A complaint, charging Nilson with malicious mischief, was issued this morning by Asst. Dist. Atty. Daniel J. McNamara.

Nilson, identified as manager of one of the firms using the building, tripped over a firehose after snatching the camera and fell on top of it in a pool of water. He then pounded the camera up and down on the pavement until firemen and a policeman took him into custody.

He also threatened other photographers and warned he would smash their cameras, too.

An investigation was to be made today in an effort to determine what started the blaze.

NOT GUILTY PLEA IN CAMERA ATTACK

TRIB D JUN 26 1950

Carl Nilson, 43, of 1109 Glendora Avenue, pleaded innocent today to charges of malicious mischief arising from the smashing of the camera of Robert Stinnett, a Tribune photographer, at a fire last week.

Nilson was arrested after he grabbed the camera and pounded it on the pavement in an effort to prevent the taking of pictures at a three-alarm fire at the foot of 46th Avenue. He also threatened other photographers and warned that he would smash their cameras.

Nilson pleaded innocent before Police Judge Chris B. Fox and asked for a jury trial. Judge Fox continued the case until tomorrow when trial date will be set.

Bay National Guard Units Engaged in War Games

By **ROBERT STINNETT**
Tribune Correspondent

CAMP COOKE, Santa Barbara County, June 19.—Tanks and artillery units of California's 49th National Guard Division boomed into action this morning as 8000 part-time soldiers began their third day of summer war games.

Foggy skies cooled the brows of the Forty Niners, but the two days of squad problems over the rugged terrain of this camp have taken their toll: The 49th Medical Detachment headed by First Lieut. Robert J. Rapaport of 1833 Stanford Street, Alameda, had its first casualties—aching feet that were easily cured with hot water compresses.

Two forces are at "war" here. The friendly army is commanded by Maj. Gen. Curtis D. O'Sullivan, state adjutant general. The aggressor force is commanded by his son, Maj. Curtis H. O'Sullivan. No battle communiques have been issued as yet.

RED ANT ENEMY

While they were engaged in squad training and were not necessarily looking for the enemy, second platoon of Company G,

159th Infantry, found a formidable foe. The platoon headed by Second Lieut. Chuck Goodwin of 3267 Davis Street, Oakland was in bivouac last night and found they had pitched their pup tents on a mound of red ants. Soldiers like Norman Zimmer of 3402 Davis Street, Stan Vares, 1322 East 27th Street, Don Regaller, 1451 78th Avenue, and Ted Waltman of 240 South 7th Street, Richmond found this "front" too fluid and retired to other positions.

EASTBAY MEN

Principal detachments involved in the two weeks training include the 159th Infantry Regiment commanded by Col. Leonard N. Dunkel of 6708 Thornhill Drive, Oakland. This unit is made up almost entirely of Eastbay personnel.

Saturday is graduation day for guardsmen attending the National Guard officer candidate school. High man of the OCS is Private First Class Douglas Davies, 21, of 320 62nd Street, Oakland. He will be granted a provisional commission as second lieutenant.

Wrist Watch Radio Perfected

By **ROBERT STINNETT**

The wrist watch radio station is no longer confined to the comic strips.

Successful operation of a miniature radio transmitting station that can send signals up to one-half mile was demonstrated last week before the Forest Products Research Society meeting at the University Club in San Francisco.

A development of the Stanford University Research Institute, the radio station was designed for operations in the logging industry. The radio set's application for timber operations was shown by William E. Rand, assistant director of the Stanford Research Institute.

DESIGNS SET

The miniature station was designed by Dr. Clelio Brunetti of the SRI staff.

According to Rand's statement to the Society, the transmitter can be made as small as a cigarette case, a wrist watch or a lipstick case.

The transmitter demonstrated by Rand was about the size of a human hand and had a sending radius of from 1000 to 2000 feet. The receivable signal range decreases as the set is made smaller because of the tiny batteries that must be used. The signal of the wrist watch radio, according to Rand, could only be heard within a radius of about 100 feet.

FOR FIRE FIGHTERS

The SRI urged the forest industry to adopt the set for use in directing the fighting of forest fires as well as using the radio to co-ordinate the operations of woodsmen in the harvesting of timber crops.

Dr. Brunetti developed the transmitter while working in conjunction with the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C. A small wrist band transmitter was presented to President Truman by Dr. Brunetti.

First Biography of a Highway Portrays Glorious Land From Behind a Wheel

TR 5C MAY 17 1953

Reviewed by ROBERT STINNETT

U. S. 40, By George R. Stewart; Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston; \$5.

Here is 311 pages is the first biography of a United States highway.

It may seem rather strange that there should be a biography of a highway and that a major U. S. publisher would anticipate a demand for a book about a ribbon of concrete. But there was also surprise when George R. Stewart made a fire and a storm the subjects of highly successful novels.

"U. S. 40" is another example of Stewart's ability to weave a fascinating story around an impersonal theme.

For some reason, as Stewart points out, poets and authors have left the highways alone. Yet in the 56 years or so that the automobile has been with us it has influenced history and everyone's life.

U. S. 40, as Stewart tells it, is a history of this country—sliced down the middle so you have a sample look.

From the "George Washington slept here" country of the east coast to the "banjo on my knee" lore of the mother lode, U. S.

40's tale is told by Stewart in both prose and illustrations.

He is at his best when he lets go with his own observations. Take the chapter entitled "A few reflections:"

"The people of the United States have been granted a natural heritage such as perhaps no other people have ever been granted, and they have exploited it materially. Mile after mile, hundred-mile after hundred-mile, stretch the farmlands interspersed with mines and oil fields, dotted with towns and great cities full of manufacturing plants. A jingo imperialist would be justified in feeling drunk with power."

These observations are further pointed up in his straight from the shoulder photography—none of the arty travel stuff. The book is built around the photographs. Each illustration is explained in the text in a manner that puts you behind the wheel of Stewart's auto as he drives over Donner Pass, follows the Conestoga route through the midwest, climbs the Appalachians and coasts to a stop at the Atlantic seaboard.

You are given a look at Hays

Kansas, where Stewart snapped four children staring right smack into the camera lens.

A professional would sneer at "no composition" but a motorist (as Stewart) would see the bare feet, a football in the arms of a young boy and the cars parked in front of large green lawns, the block after block of fine shade trees almost hiding the white frame houses. This is a typical picture of America, one that may not have "composition," but a lot of Kansas.

"U. S. 40," writes Stewart, "crossing the country by a central route, making use of natural passageways, touching many long established cities, already representing a tremendous financial investment—seems destined to remain an important line of travel as long as our civilization remains."

But whatever happens, "by following U.S. 40 you do not travel a parkway, and do not wander from national park to national park, seeking the spectacular in scenery.

"Instead, accepting the com-

monplace along with the spectacular, seeing the people and the country too, taking the good with the bad and the beautiful with the ugly, you gain some balanced impression of the United States of America."

Newlyweds
Total Cameramen
Honeymoon
LIRD MAR 18 1953
In Sierra

Honeymooning today at Squaw Valley and Lake Tahoe are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stinnett whose wedding was solemnized Sunday at Old St. Mary's Church in San Francisco. The Rev. Claude J. Collins officiated at the 1 o'clock nuptials which were read before members of the immediate families. Following the ceremony a reception was held at the Hotel St. Francis.

Mrs. Gordon Bennett of this city was matron-of-honor and standing with his brother as best man was Charles B. Stinnett.

The new Mrs. Stinnett (Peggy McBride Volland) is the widow of Charles J. Volland Jr. and the daughter of Senator and Mrs. James J. McBride of Ventura. Bob is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis R. Stinnett of Piedmont.

\$25 Million Shop Center Plans Bared

TRD OCT 28 1959

Developer Picks

Whipple Road Site
In Union City

UNION CITY, Oct. 28—Plans for a \$25,000,000 shopping center near Whipple Road, across from the proposed site for the State College for Alameda County were revealed last night.

A spokesman for Branden Enterprises announced the plans at a meeting of the Decoto Elementary School District board.

Robert Stinnett, representing the company, said the center would bring \$250,000 a year in sales tax revenue to Union City, and should allay fears that residential and commercial zoning across from the campus site would hurt Union City taxwise.

The Union City Council wants industrial development in the area in order to preserve the city's tax base. Industrial zoning is considered by the state to be incompatible to the campus location.

The Decoto Elementary School District board, in the face of criticism from city councilmen and industrialists, last night stood firm on a decision to seek a school site across the proposed campus site.

Supt. Harold Schoenfeld said the board is negotiating for a site within a 34-acre parcel owned by Branden.

Schoenfeld said the site was being sought in a direct effort to encourage residential development in the area. He said, however, that the city council will have the final say.

Backing up the stand for industrial zoning were Joseph Eastwood, president of Pacific States Steel Corp. and American Forge; Claude Roberts, plant manager for American Forge, and city councilmen Oscar Dowe and Joseph Lewis.

World Release

TRD OCT 1 - 1954

A photograph by Tribune cameraman Robert Stinnett, published in Life Magazine, will soon be released abroad by the United States Overseas Information Agency.

The photo, given a full-page play by the picture magazine, shows Jon Lindbergh warming himself before a campfire after a chilling 150-foot swim through the inky-black waters of a submerged tunnel at Bower Cave, in Mariposa County. At the tunnel's end, Lindbergh, 20-year-old son of the famous flier, discovered a previously unknown vaultlike room.

Stinnett's camera study caught the spelunker as, water still dripping from his frogman's suit, he returned from the vault.

Through release of the picture by the information agency, overseas readers will be enabled to visualize Lindbergh's dangerous adventure—and the high quality of American photographic work.

D.A. Backs Conduct Of Grand Jury Quiz

SEP 28 1967

By HAVELOCK HUNTER

Alameda County Dist. Atty. Frank Coakley has called criticism of the grand jury probe in the assessment scandal "pure conclusion and generalization."

Members of the 1965 and 1966 grand juries testified yesterday before an Assembly investigating committee that investigation was hampered by "outside forces" and that a jury faction felt they were "rubber stamps" of the D.A.

Robert Stinnett, 1966 juror and newspaper photographer of Oakland, charged that there was a conflict of interest between the D.A. and County Counsel in advising the jury and governmental branch it was investigating.

"There never has been a problem like that," Coakley countered. "If Mr. Stinnett thought there was why didn't he put it in his report."

"There are 19 members chosen by chance from names submitted by our Superior Court judges. They are the most responsible people in the community. If a district attorney could brainwash such a group he must be pretty good, and I don't think he's that good."

Stinnett appeared before the Assembly Governmental Efficiency and Economy Committee, chairmanned by Assemblyman Lester A. McMillan, D-L.A. He made a series of recommendations to improve grand jury operations.

Among suggestions was a proposal that a jury have free access to its presiding judge

instead of depending upon the D.A. for legal advice. Stinnett declared that "much of the key advice" given by the D.A. to his committee "was wrong or was changed later in our term."

Stinnett was chairman of a special committee seeking improvements of assessment practices after the conviction of former assessor Donald E. Feragen for accepting bribes for changing assessment ratings for clients of tax consultant James C. Tooke. That indictment was by the 1965 grand jury.

"If Mr. Stinnett got the wrong advice, I'd like to know," said Coakley in reference to Stinnett's comment on "key advice."

"I don't agree at all. Edwin Meese III was assigned to do the work assisting the grand jury. His duty was to present evidence in cases in which the grand jury had jurisdiction."

"And he explained the law as it applied to the grand jury."

Meese now is on leave from the district attorney's office as clemency secretary and judicial adviser to Gov. Reagan.

Coakley said he had every confidence in Meese's legal ability:

"Mr. Stinnett's statements are pure conclusion and generalization. I don't know what advice he is talking about. I don't know what question he raised on legal advice at that time."

"As for being puppets, I am saying that it is not so and never has been so for any member who has been on the Grand Jury."

"To suggest that the grand jurors are persuaded to do anything contrary to law is a

slur upon upstanding and fine citizens who have served through the years, and it is an insult to their intelligence."

Coakley asserted that "the assessment case was handled by this office with a great deal of competence and skill. It was put together in a legal way and I gave it directly to the grand jury. The results showed: The assessor was convicted and didn't take an appeal. And two of his aides were convicted also."

Coakley noted that Stinnett "was not a chairman of any of the six standing committees" but headed a special assessment practices committee. This group "looked into a s s e s s m e n t procedure of ranch property in Southern Alameda County" to determine whether it should have been assessed at a higher figure because of nearby subdivision development.

Coakley said the committee in its "spot check claimed the assessment should be higher." He stressed that assessments are a matter of "expert opinion" and the assessor has a latitude of discretion.

The district attorney said that grand juries "can confer with their judge any time they want . . . if they are not satisfied with the district attorney's advice. They are so informed in the printed instructions they receive."

Stinnett did not mention Coakley by name in his Sacramento testimony. Yet Coakley said it could be assumed the criticism was directed toward him on the assessment investigation:

"None of these things he now complains about were in any of his lengthy reports, which is significant. He never made a complaint to me."

Tribune Photographers Win Press Awards

JUN - 9 1968

Tribune photographers Lonnie Wilson and Robert Stinnett have both won second prizes in different categories in the 1968 Gold Seal News Photo Competition sponsored by the California Press Photographers Association, Inc.

They were awarded \$125 prize checks at the announcement ceremony yesterday.

Wilson's winning photo, which appeared Nov. 14, 1967, showed a policeman looking out through the bullethole in a

window of the San Francisco Hunters Point Police Station where a sniper shot two police officers, one of them fatally.

Stinnett's photo caught a wry moment at the dedication of a new California Highway Patrol office in Oakland when an Oakland policeman stopped a woman motorist for a traffic violation directly in front ranks of CHP officers standing at attention. The photo was published Feb. 15.

Two Tribune JUL 9 - 1968 Lensmen in Photo Exhibit

Two Tribune photographers are represented in the annual exhibit which opened today in the Kaiser Center Mall of the best newspaper photographs taken in California during the past year.

The 82 pictures were selected from a field of 727 taken by 99 members of the California Press photographers association. More than 100,000 persons saw them on display during the month of June in the State Capitol Rotunda at Sacramento.

Photographers from the Bay Area whose work is included are Robert Stinnett and Lonnie Wilson of The Tribune, Dick Dubois of the Berkeley Gazette, Seymour Snaer of the San Francisco Examiner and Jim Kean of the San Rafael Independent Journal.

The exhibit will last for three weeks.

Tribune Team's Incredible Journey APR 13 1975

"An Incredible Journey."

That's how Tribune reporter Fred Garretson and photographer Robert Stinnett described an epic flight to Southeast Asia and back aboard a World Airways mercy plane.

It began as a two-day mission; it lasted for seven days.

Its purpose: Bring back as many orphans as possible from the besieged city of Saigon. And bring them back they did—329 in all—in the biggest orphan flight yet of "Operation Babylift."

The 12 doctors, 13 nurses and 25 cabin attendants—many from the Eastbay—who volunteered their services will never forget that seven-day odyssey.

And neither will Garretson. Today he reports on the orphans' arrival in Los Angeles. Next Tuesday he begins a series of articles:

- He'll tell you about Oakland's Ed Daly, whom Garretson calls the "Sun God" of the aviation world.

- He'll describe the absolute chaos of ferrying 329 infants jammed into one jumbo jetliner 7,556 miles across the Pacific.

- And he'll tell why one Vietnamese child, Bu Thi Thuy Binh, died while 12 American doctors fought to save his life.

It's in The Trib—starting Tuesday.

Who

FEB -2 1976

After serving three years as a Navy combat photographer in the Pacific during World War II, it was just "sort of natural" for Robert Stinnett to start shooting pictures for The Tribune again. He had covered sporting events for the paper while he was in Fremont High School.

Stinnett likes fast moving stories — stories that take technical skill as well as news judgment.

His work—and he has his share of awards including one from Life magazine and the National Press Photographers Assn.—has also appeared in Time, Newsweek, the London Times, Look and Cosmopolitan magazines.

Unseen

Elvis

SUN JAN 6 1985

It was June 3, 1956, three months before Elvis Presley's historic appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show. But already the Memphis rock 'n' roller was a national sensation, his records selling at the rate of 50,000 a day. On this day, Elvis was scheduled to perform twice at the Oakland Auditorium. Tribune photographer Robert Stinnett had the rare opportunity to photograph and chat with "The Pelvis" in his dressing room before and after the show.

Using the unwieldy Speed Graphic camera of the era, Stinnett shot 20 exposures (including today's extraordinary cover shot of an exhausted Elvis after the concert). The Tribune printed only one photo (below). The rest remained in the archives until Stinnett, a 38-year veteran of this newspaper, saw the occasion of Elvis' 50th birthday as a moment to share them. These unique photographs are published here for the first time.

Elvis, then 21, greeted some of the 6,400 hysterical fans before and after the show. "He was as happy to see and talk with fans as they were to see him," recalls Stinnett. "He was very accessible."

The Trib's story that day included these interesting quotes from Presley:

"I don't blow anything, other than on four cars, a motorcycle and stuff like that. I've got about 35 jackets and pants. My income taxes are really high. But I've got a manager who can get the most out of a deal. He drains 'em."

To purchase reprints of these exclusive photos of Elvis, look for the order form on Page A-4 of today's Tribune.

Ex-Tribune photographer co-produces Bush film

TUE NOV 24 1992

11 years, co-produced by Oakland photojournalist Robert B. Stinnett will appear at 9 tonight on the Arts and Entertainment cable channel.

Stinnett, a former Oakland Tribune photographer who served in the Navy with Bush, said A&E "did a beautiful job on it ... It's very accurate."

The hourlong show, part of A&E's "Biography" series, is based on Stinnett's 1991 book, "George Bush: His World War II Years."

MON JAN 27 1992

In other photography news, Oakland photojournalist Robert Stinnett is busy with a documentary film drawn from his 1991 book, "George Bush: His World War II Years."

Stinnett, a retired Oakland Trib photographer and war comrade of the president, is working with the Arts & Entertainment network, a cable channel, which is filming an hour program about Bush's experiences as a Navy pilot in the Pacific. Stinnett, a Navy photographer in the war, was assigned to Bush's crew and worked closely with him on intelligence photos.

Stinnett and wife Peggy were in Hawaii for the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor ceremonies in December and go to Washington, D.C., in February for filming at the White House with George and Barbara Bush.

— Harriet Swift

THU JUL - 4 1991

ONE DAY DURING the 1984 presidential campaign, Oakland Tribune photographer Robert Stinnett was checking photos coming over the Associated Press wire and noticed the news service was sending a "backgrounder" on Vice President George Bush.

Stinnett was stunned to see a photograph of a very young Bush as a World War II Navy pilot. Stunned because he had taken the picture. Vice President George Bush was his old shipmate George Bush?

"I had forgotten all about him," said Stinnett recently. "You know, as soon as it was over, we all said 'To hell with the war!' We wanted to get on with our lives."

But the past has a funny way of blending with the present, and now Stinnett has published a detailed account of the war in the North Pacific, using George Bush's particular experiences as the focus and his own official Navy photographs as the illustrations.

Published in May, "George Bush: His World War II Years" (Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., \$14.95) has sold out its first printing, gone into its second and is selling briskly in history and military-oriented bookshops such as the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The book's popularity is especially rewarding for Stinnett, who struggled to find a publisher for a book not tailored to the Bush "wimp factor."

Stinnett, an Oakland resident who retired from the Trib in 1986, had been researching a book on the military intelligence about Pearl Harbor. He decided to work on a Navy campaign book because he initially thought the Bush connection would make it a much easier first book to sell.

"Publishers, agents, they wanted to know right away if it was 'positive or negative' about Bush," said Stinnett, "and I said, 'It's going to be objective.' Nobody was interested then unless it was going to 'wimp' Bush."

Stinnett signed with a San Francisco literary agency but was dumped by them when the agents decided they didn't like Bush's environmental policies. Finally he hooked up with Pictorial Histories, a small Montana company which specializes in military books.

After an appearance on the "Today" show he was signed by the high-profile Scott Meredith agency in New York (Norman Mailer's agent) and there's talk of a documentary and foreign sales.

The book found an immediate and enthusiastic fan, however, in President (formerly Lieutenant, j.g.) George Bush, when Stinnett delivered a special presentation copy of the book to the White House last November.

"He was just the same," said Stinnett with a touch of wonder. "A very friendly guy, very easy to talk to — 'Hi Bob, how are you, look at these pictures, you mean I took that?' and so on. He hadn't changed at all."

Stinnett and Bush worked shoulder to shoulder during 1943 and '44, when Bush was the squad-ron photographic officer on the USS San Jacinto and Stinnett was the photographer's mate, first

class, assigned to him. To gather information for U.S. intelligence, Navy planes were charged with bringing back photos of battles, landscape, Japanese ships or whatever else was deemed necessary.

"Before each flight I would load the cameras, deliver them, then pick them up immediately after they returned," explained Stinnett.

Bush, he recalls, was a favorite with the pho-



Bush and Stinnett recall old days — and old cameras — at a White House meeting in 1990.

tography crew because he followed instructions, was diligent about the photo assignment (which was on top of the bombing mission) and usually came down to the darkroom afterward to point out the key shots on the film as Stinnett developed the pictures.

Originally, Stinnett and the other photographers were flying on the missions themselves, to the annoyance of the pilots and crews who thought they were dead weight. And there were other drawbacks.

"We didn't have any training for combat," said Stinnett. "We didn't know how to fire guns, we didn't know what to do if the plane went down."

But it was the pilots' disgruntlement rather than the photographers' safety which finally settled the issue, with the film guys grounded and the actual photo-taking reassigned to the pilots and their crews, as well as fixed cameras mounted on some of the planes.

Unlike the swaggering heroes of "Top Gun" and "The Right Stuff" legend, Stinnett recalls Navy pilots as quiet, determined men who were looked on with something like awe by the rest of the San Jacinto's 1,600 crewmen.

"They were trying to survive," said Stinnett. "Bragging and storytelling — that comes later, after you're safe at home, not while you're out there putting your life on the line every day. You're just grateful to be alive."

Bush was the epitome of the hardworking, self-effacing pilot, says Stinnett, loyal to his men, always trying to keep up a cheerful, light-hearted atmosphere.

service, too, publishing "Flight of the Avenger: George Bush at War." It's a much slicker tale than Stinnett's, heavy on the Bush family's rich Eastern background. Hyams even uses some of Stinnett's photos, which are public property, of course, as part of the Navy archives.

Stinnett's book, by contrast, is loaded with black and white photos from the San Jacinto as well as maps and reproduced documents. His focus

'I had forgotten all about (Bush) ... You know, as soon as it was over, we all said "To hell with the war!" We wanted to get on with our lives.'

— Robert Stinnett

Stinnett, who "never talked politics" during the war, has taken a different path than Bush. He and his wife Peggy Stinnett are ardent Democrats (she was on the Oakland school board for 10 years) but Stinnett separates politics from the war story he tells in his book.

"I wanted to get this story out, I still consider myself a journalist, a newsman," he says.

In light of the Gulf War, celebrity interviewer Joe Hyams decided to do a book about Bush's war

is military strategy, detailing the Navy and Marine efforts to crack the ring of Pacific islands that guarded the gateway to Japan. Stinnett feels that this part of the war has been unfairly neglected by historians.

Another part of his decision to write the book was annoyance at charges during the 1988 election that Bush was a less-than-responsible pilot. Another

DRIVE-IN THEATER

Continued from Page B-1

er airman who served in their group told the New York Post that Bush could have saved his two crewmen when his plane was shot down in September 1944 (only Bush survived).

"None of the official records support him," says Stinnett, who interviewed the critic ("I knew him but didn't really remember him") as well as the other surviving eyewitnesses, who all praised Bush for coolness under fire.

"People have challenged records of all wars," said Stinnett, "but this was not some 'means of ascent' like Lyndon Johnson, who had someone fly him over a war zone so he could claim a war record."

Stinnett feels that by telling Bush's war story, he is "telling our story," of all the men who served in the late Pacific battles. Looking back, he's almost incredulous it all happened.

"We were so young," he says, "just out of high school."

Indeed. Stinnett was 19 when he went to war, George Bush was 20. In the frantic wartime pace to mobilize as many men as possible, senior officers were often men barely in their 30s.

Looking back, Stinnett shakes his head over the kids who went to war. "Sometimes I just can't believe it all happened," he said. "And to have served with a man who became president! Incredible."

* "JUNGLE FEVER" (R) 11:30-12:30
* "THE ROCKETEER" (PG) (On Two Screens)
11:30-12:30-2:00-4:30-5:15-7:40-9:30-10:10
* "WHAT ABOUT BOB?" (PG) 1:00-3:10-5:20-7:30-9:50
* "ONLY THE LONELY" (PG-13) 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:40

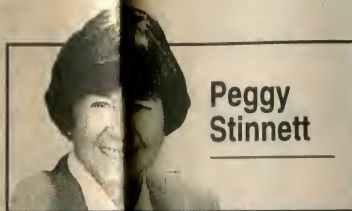
As secrets are revealed, expect more

WED FEB - 8 1995

IS 50 years long enough to keep security-classified information about World War II a secret? President Bill Clinton thought so when he signed an Executive Order calling for the bulk declassification of almost 44 million pages of National Archives records in commemoration of the end of World War II.

In doing so, Clinton was the first president to bend to public pressure and Freedom of Information requests to declassify documents that have been kept secret 50 years. Public access to the documents will shed new light on old history, and in some cases, revise existing accounts of what happened, and why.

Release of the documents is great news to researchers of World War II who include my husband Robert Stinnett, a former Oakland Tribune photographer. He is writing a book on the 1941 Japa-



Peggy
Stinnett

nese attack on Pearl Harbor, and the events that preceded it. Recently, his research took us to the new National Archives in College Park, Md., where the war documents are housed.

Show both sides?

By coincidence that week in Washington, D.C. the Enola Gay controversy at the Smithsonian Institution was rocking the Capitol, giving institution director I. Michael Heyman, former U.C. Berkeley chancellor, a troubling problem to solve.

Should an exhibit of the re-

stored Enola Gay airplane which dropped the atomic bomb on two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in August 1945 tell both sides of the bomb controversy? Or relate only the American side?

World War II veterans and the American Legion were angry. They said the planned Enola Gay exhibit in the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum was too sympathetic to the Japanese. They wanted the curator fired, and the script rewritten.

A video preview of the exhibit now showing at the museum did seem to be sympathetic to those who believe the bomb should not have been dropped, especially a featured photograph of a Japanese child, burned and alone against a backdrop of devastation.

Heyman refused to fire the curator, then took a dive on the substance of the issue by not coming down on either side of the argu-

ment. He determined that the Enola Gay exhibit will not carry either argument. It will simply show the airplane's fuselage.

His decision caused the controversy to grow exponentially. There is now a new argument that says the public is entitled to know the facts on both sides — Japanese and American — and to be educated on why the bomb was dropped.

It seems everyone in the controversy is trying to apply the rule of fairness as they perceive this issue in retrospect, forgetting that in war there is no fairness. War is not fair. You either kill or be killed.

As a peacenik myself, I have always tended toward the view that the bomb should not have been dropped. But one night after a day of research in the Archives, Bob showed me a cache of documents he had discovered that day. The papers were written by the intelli-

Enola Gay polemics

gence chief for Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet in 1945, based on intercepted Japanese communications that were classified "Top Secret Ultra" for 50 years.

Many lives at stake

The documents show that in May 1945, the Japanese were planning to draft 10 million male citizens to fight off an expected U.S. invasion of Japanese soil.

Hiroshima was a center for one huge army contingent and naval forces were massed at Nagasaki and nearby Sasebo. Japanese citizens were exhorted to follow the Kusunoke doctrine that called for suicide when defeated in battle.

This awesome information made us reflect on how many lives — American and Japanese — would have been lost in the Armageddon battle that would have ensued had

our troops actually invaded Japanese soil.

This top secret information about Japan's plans was available to President Harry Truman, who made the decision to drop the atomic bomb in August 1945. According to Truman's papers, he decided there would be fewer American lives lost with a quick end to the war. There were other considerations, as well, but fundamental was the desire to save American lives.

With the opening of the hidden secrets of World War II, we can expect to see more controversies erupt as the truth of what happened in the war overtakes the often glorified war stories that have grown over 50 years in darkness.

Peggy Stinnett's column appears in The Oakland Tribune on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Berkeley divers find historic WW II trawler

THU AUG - 5 1993

By David K. Li

STAFF WRITER

A Berkeley-based diving crew believes it has found a World War II Japanese military trawler sunk by a U.S. Navy war plane piloted by former President George Bush.

The trawler, found in waters 30 miles off the coast of the Micronesian island of Palau, was discovered at noon Tuesday (8 p.m. PDT Monday) by the five-member diving team, said crew spokesman Lewis "Chip" Lambert.

"It was pretty well beaten up," Lambert said in a telephone interview with The Oakland Tribune Wednesday night. "We hope the Palauans make it a national monument. We also hope George Bush comes back to visit it, and recognizes this very destructive and uneasy period of time the world went through."

The discovery caps a two-year effort by divers and East Bay author Robert Stinnett, a Navy photographer who served with Bush and published "George Bush: His World War II Years." Bush, an ensign at the time, was flying a torpedo bomber named The Barbara Two when he spotted the trawler off Kayangel atoll in northern Palau and dropped a 500-pound bomb.

Stinnett and diving crew member Dan Bailey, author of "The World War II Wrecks," poured over Navy records and aerial photos before locating the spot of the wreck.

Lambert said it took only three hours to find the trawler.

For several days, the crew had searched, unsuccessfully, for the aircraft wreckage of U.S. Navy Lt. Richard Houle, Bush's wingman.

Trib NOV 5 1990

PEARL HARBOR SCENARIO



CYNTHIA COX

Robert Stinnett is surrounded by documents he gathered while compiling information for his book "Day of Deceit."

Deliberately left unprotected?

Author says FDR wanted U.S. in war

By William Brand
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — It's one of the enduring puzzles of World War II: How could the United States be so stupid as to leave the bulk of its Pacific fleet virtually unmanned and unprotected at Pearl Harbor with the very real threat of an attack by the Japanese growing daily.

The answer, says retired Oakland Tribune photographer-turned-historian Robert Stinnett, is that President

Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his inner circle did so deliberately. FDR used the fleet as bait to draw an attack from the Japanese, infuriate the isolationist American public, move the country into World War II — and save the free world. Stinnett says.

Stinnett researched the subject for 17 years, obtaining under the Freedom of Information Act thousands of previously top-secret, intercepted Japanese messages and Roosevelt administration documents. He lays out the scenario in a new book reaching stores today, "Day of Deceit: The Truth About FDR and Pearl Harbor" (Free Press, Simon & Schuster).

It is the first time the messages, de-

coded by Navy cryptographers before the Pearl Harbor attack, have been made public.

Historians, who specialize in World War II at Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley, said it has long been speculated that such decoded messages exist. They question the FDR link.

"Of course President Roosevelt wanted to get us in the war," said Diane S. Clemons, a UC Berkeley history professor. "But did FDR maneuver America into war? No, he had his hands tied. The American people weren't willing."

At Stanford, historian Barton Bern-

Please see **Pearl**, NEWS-17

Earl: Stinnett research tracked long paper trail of Japanese attack fleet

Continued from NEWS-1

stein said he has not seen the book, but he too has doubts about such a link. "My conclusion would be that the U.S. expected an attack, but not on Hawaii."

Clemons said she intends to buy the book. If those messages are well-documented, it will be very interesting, she said.

Stinnett said they are nailed down solidly.

The decoded messages — coupled with Navy direction-finding equipment, sophisticated for the time — tracked the Japanese attack fleet across the Northern Pacific to Hawaii and another attack fleet southward toward the Philippines, Stinnett says.

Cryptographers even recorded the uncoded messages broadcast from Japanese commander-in-chief Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto in Tokyo, telling the Japanese attack fleet to "Climb Mt. Nitaka," giving the date and the time of the attack, but not naming Pearl Harbor.

Pearl Harbor was not an accident, a failure of American intelligence or a brilliant Japanese military coup, he said in an interview in his Oakland home Thursday.

A document he uncovered, written in 1940 by Lt. Cmdr. Arthur McCollum, head of the Far East Desk, Navy Intelligence, outlines an eight-step plan to lure the Japanese into an attack.

"Bob said, 'Go for it' and I did," Stinnett recalled. "I just kept going and I met all these Navy communications people."

Then for years, he filed Freedom of Information Act requests. He now has a row of filing cabinets filled with documents.

Slowly, the story — hidden for half a century through two Congressional investigations — emerged.

He found that earlier in 1940, the Navy established a secret delivery system for decoded Japanese messages and intelligence to Roosevelt. In the months before Pearl Harbor, McCollum routed 151 deliveries to FDR.

In his book, Stinnett traces step-by-step how FDR put McCollum's ideas into effect, including convincing the Dutch to shut off oil deliveries to Japan from what is now Indonesia, keeping the main fleet in Hawaii and launching a trade embargo on Japan.

It was a dire and desperate time, Stinnett said. "Hitler controlled continental Europe and was bombing Britain, preparing for an invasion. Nazi U-boats had attacked American shipping and there was the real possibility that if Britain fell, America could find itself in peril."

But a Gallup poll taken in mid-1940 as FDR campaigned for election to his third term, showed 80 percent of Americans preferred not to get involved in another European war.

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There's a faint paper trail to the desk of FDR, he says. No, the venerable American leader didn't sign off on the plan. But Stinnett, a trained newsman, used to following story like a bulldog, dug deeper.

"This is the smoking gun," Stinnett says. "You can't refute this. On the very next day, FDR called in the U.S. fleet commander James Richardson and they had a knock-down, drag-out meeting. FDR wanted the fleet kept in Hawaii.

"Richardson believed it was foolish," he said. Soon Richardson was gone.

What's more, despite the 2,600 casualties sustained by the United States in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Stinnett believes FDR did the right thing.

"We had to get into the war," Stinnett said.

A graduate of Oakland High School, Stinnett, now 75, enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and served in the South Pacific with former President George Bush. He joined the Tribune staff in 1948. His wife, Peggy, is the Tribune's associate editor and a columnist.

He first became interested in the story when he asked former Tribune Publisher Bob Maynard to let him go to Hawaii to visit a secret Navy decoding station revealed in historian Gordon Prange's 1981 book "At Dawn We Slept: The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor."

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FDR knew America had to enter the war. But how?

The book has won praise from historian John Toland, whose book "Infamy" suggests that America hid terrible secrets about Pearl Harbor. In a statement made last year, he said the documents reveal secrets never before disclosed to the public, although 11 U.S. presidents have had the power to do so.

Toland now has a memory problem, but his wife said Thursday from their home in Danbury, Ct., that he greatly appreciated Stinnett's discoveries. "We want to convey our congratulations," she said.

The now-decoded messages went only to a selected few — including top FDR aides in Washington, Stinnett said. But Admiral Husband E. Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter Short, the Navy and Army commanders in Hawaii, were not in the loop, Stinnett discovered.

After the attack, they were blamed for lack of preparedness and banished from command. His heart broken, Kimmel died in disgrace in 1949.

"I hope this book can help vindicate Admiral Kimmel," Stinnett said.

The book is dedicated to the late John Moss, the California congressman who sponsored the Freedom of Information Act.